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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/758,102	01/16/2004	Li Li	M4065.0909/P909-A	4986
24998	7590	06/24/2005	EXAMINER	
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN & OSHINSKY LLP			PHAM, THANH V	
2101 L Street, NW			ART UNIT	
Washington, DC 20037			PAPER NUMBER	
			2823	

DATE MAILED: 06/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/758,102	Applicant(s) LI ET AL.	
	Examiner Thanh V. Pham	Art Unit 2823	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21,22,24-26,28 and 29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-22,24-26 and 28-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 05/20/2005 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claims 21, 24-25 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Zahorik et al. US 5,789,277 (provided by the applicant).

Re claims 21 and 25, the Zahorik et al. reference discloses an intermediate structure in fig. 11, comprising: a substrate, a first conductor 20 formed on said substrate; an insulator 80 formed on said first conductor, at least one via 110 formed within said insulator and extending to said first conductor; a metallic material 120 formed in said at least one via; and a flowable oxide material 150 (*re claim 28*) localized only within said via and over said metallic material within said via, *wherein a portion of a sidewall region of said via is exposed*, col. 9, line 1 and figs. 9-12.

Re claim 24, the metallic material 120 is deposited on a surface of insulator 80.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. Claims 22, 26 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zahorik et al. as applied to claims 21, 24-25 and 28 above, and further in view of Kozicki US 6,487,106 B1 (provided by the applicant) and Iba US 5,883,006.

The Zahorik et al. reference discloses substantially all of the instant invention but lacks using silver for the metallic material and the silicon oxide is in a flowable form in a temperature range of 50-90 °C.

The Kozicki reference discloses silver electrode 220/230 is used (claim 3 and 5) within trench or through-hole (col. 3, line 25) in structure 100 of RAM construction.

The Iba reference discloses flowable oxide 116 in trench 114 to cover metal 104 is applied in an intermediate structure by spin coating at room temperature.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply silver for the metallic material and flowable oxide in the recited temperature range as the materials would be selected in order to maintain a desired dissolved metal concentration (Kozicki's col. 4, line 63) and to provide a better structure at the contact point of the two different material in the trench (Iba's col. 1) in accordance with the structure formation as taught by Zahorik et al.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 04/26/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

6. Applicant adds box A in Zahorik's fig. 10 to show Zahorik's intermediate structure does not have the limitation of "a portion of a sidewall region of said via is exposed".

Applicant is directed to Zahorik's figure 11 wherein Zahorik's intermediate structure having a portion of a sidewall region of said via exposed.


Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh V. Pham whose telephone number is 571-272-1866. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T (6:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Olik Chaudhuri can be reached on 571-272-1855. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

06/10/2005


George Fourson
Primary Examiner